

# THE CENTURIONS

Volume 1, Issue 3

## Event Wrap-Up

Joe Dhuey

As we move into the planning for next year's event (yes, it's already started), I'm doing the final wrap up on the "The Great Comic Con Caper . . . A Chic Geek Affair". We are cutting the final check to BBBST to meet our 1<sup>st</sup> year commitment to them of \$105,000. A group of us (LaMonte, Britt, Steve S., Jay H. and Joe) made a formal check presentation to Marie Logan, BBBST CEO, at their Annual Gala last Saturday night, October 8<sup>th</sup>. BBBST did a great job of recognizing The Centurions for our efforts and they acknowledged us by giving us their Innovator Award for this year. It was a great night and a very moving night to see the impact our donation will have on kids. As a group, WE DID GOOD!!!

Now on to closing the door on OUR 2016 event. WE had a great event. There was a lot of energy at the party and a lot of amazing costumes. I would say our guests (~ 4,500) were into it and had an amazing time. There are a few bills and receivables still being reconciled, but for the most part we are closing the books. If we include all revenue sources, which includes raffle/gambling from BBBST, we had Gross Revenues of \$780K and Net Proceeds of \$415K (Before our \$105K payment to BBBST). This is just an awesome result!! Once again, WE DID GOOD!!! WE DID REAL GOOD!!!

I want to THANK everyone one last time. This was OUR party and WE did an outstanding job of pulling it all together. It's incredible what can be done when we work together as a TEAM!! **THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU!!!**

Signing off . . . . Respectfully, your **FBG, 2016 Event Chair**



# Recent Board Actions

Kermit Miller

At the October New Centurions board meeting the following policy was adopted to maintain the integrity, credibility and reputation of our organization as leaders within our community:

**If a member of The Centurions, regardless of membership status, is arrested and/or indicted for a felony offense under any applicable Arizona Revised Statute or applicable Federal offense, that member shall immediately be suspended from the organization and placed into an Inactive Status pending the resolution and/or adjudication of that matter. Any dues payable to the organization shall be suspended at that time. The member shall no longer attend any sanctioned or sponsored Centurions event.**

**If a member of the organization is subsequently convicted of, or enters a plea agreement to a felony offense, that member shall immediately be removed from the Inactive Status and his membership within the organization terminated. If a member is subsequently acquitted of any felony offense or those charges dismissed prior to trial, then the Board shall meet to consider reinstating the member in good standing. Dues shall commence and be payable at the time of reinstatement. The Board, at its discretion, may consider reinstatement of a member to the organization if a subsequent future appeal to a felony conviction or plea agreement results in an acquittal.**

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact Tony Poe or any other New Centurions Board member.

# Member Profiles



## CHARLIE O'DOWD

Don Ledbetter

Charlie O'Dowd became a Centurion in 1979, having only attended one Centurion "event", The Great Mash Bash held at the Pima Air and Space Museum. Chip Shaw provided the ticket to the party with the promise that if it wasn't a GREAT time the ticket would be complimentary. It was a GREAT time, and at the Event Charlie ran into Larry Stern a long time acquaintance and at that time, the Director of The Centurions of Saint Mary's Hospital.

Charlie is the only Centurion nominated by Larry for membership and his first meeting was an elegant dinner at St Mary's where Larry perfectly named all of the Centurions in attendance, the entire membership of 40.

By 1983 Charlie was event Chairman of "Dragons and Flagons, a Medieval Fantasy held in a Dungeon". George Stewart built a papier-mache dragon head on a front loader, with glowing eyes (brake lights) which blasted out smoke from its mouth (trigger controlled fire extinguisher). George built it in this back yard off Campbell Avenue and drove the beast downtown during rush hour. Charlie started the Family Picnic on Mt. Lemmon along with Larry Stern and the late Steve Littell; the Salt River Float with the late Alan Dochterman and Dave Sitton. During this period we started many of the early Centurions traditions, including the Charlie O'Dowd Memorial Ski run in Lake Tahoe, the two story Mexican balcony jump and the weekend of the White Triangles.

Charlie moved to California in 1988 and when he returned to Tucson in 1995 he had 29 points toward "Life" status and some members of the board thought he should come in as a rookie, fortunately he was granted re-admission to the group and applied for "Life" status in 1996. Charlie has sponsored two rookies, Don Ledbetter and Adam Dellos. Centurion membership is a highlight of his life.



## JACK FRANCISCO

Ed “Moose” Skowron

Jack Francisco was a Centurion for over 30 years and a distinguished aviator. He flew Lear Jets until a few days before his death at the age of 78 in 2013. He joined the Air Force in 1955 and enjoyed a 22 year flying career in many of the most advanced fighter aircraft of that era. He piloted an F-105 Thunderchief on the first aerial attack on North Vietnam and completed over 100 missions in Southeast Asia. Jack was decorated many times including the Distinguished Flying Cross. He retired from the military in 1976 and began a second career as a test pilot with Lear jet in Wichita and Tucson. During his tenure there he became a Designated Engineering Test pilot for the FAA.

Jack was married to Helen for 56 years (sadly Helen recently passed away) and had 3 children. He was very active in the Centurions and served on the Board of Directors. He took great pride in a job well done, had a wonderful sense of humor and made a lot of friends in our group. He is sorely missed.

## Update from Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Marie Logan

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentor2.0 launched in September, with two freshmen classes from Amphitheater High School participating in the inaugural year.

“The teachers and staff at Amphi High School have embraced the Mentor2.0 program, and have been incredible to work with”, said Marie Logan, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tucson. We’ve been in the classroom working with the students since the beginning of September, they’ve begun communicating with their mentors through the IMentor portal and everyone was looking forward to the first in-person meeting scheduled later in October”.



This is an incredible program for these kids, and we are so thankful to the Centurions for making this possible”. At their recent BIG Gala, The Centurions were presented with the Big Brothers Big Sisters Innovators Award for making Mentor2.0 possible for high school students in Tucson.

# Thank You From Tu Nidito



Tu Nidito is dedicated to our mission of creating a community of acceptance and understanding children in grief. It is our vision that no child grieves alone. The generous gift from The Centurions in 2015 allowed Tu Nidito to support over 800 children impacted by the diagnosis of a serious illness or the death of a loved one.

The Centurions' partnership supported successful results in helping children process their grief, over 97% of families felt more connected to others going through similar situations and 94% felt more hopeful for the future. Furthermore, 91% learned coping skills and 88% saw a decrease in depression. Most of the families accessing Tu Nidito services are under financial strain and thanks to partnerships like The Centurions, all Tu Nidito services are offered free of charge to ensure there are no barriers for families to attend support groups or receive our services. Tu Nidito is dedicated to advancing child-centered grief support in our community and thanks to The Centurions for being a part of this movement.

## Centurions Calendar of Events

Kermit Miller

**December 3** – Annual Dinner Dance  
Hacienda del Sol

**December 18** – Gaslight Family Matinee  
Gaslight Theater

**PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR UPCOMING PRESS RELEASE FROM TMC REGARDING  
CENTURIONS NEW ASSOCIATION WITH TMC!**